

BECKER KILLED WIFE BRONX JURY DECIDES

First Degree Verdict Is Brought in After 50 Minutes' Deliberation.

SENTENCED TUESDAY

Prisoner, Unmoved as at Trial, Hears Words Condemning Him to Chair.

DENIED ALL UNTIL LAST

Coldly and Unemotionally Slayer Answered Questions of Prosecutor.

Abraham Becker was found guilty of murder in the first degree by a jury before Judge Louis D. Gibbs in the Bronx County Court at 1:50 o'clock this morning. The jury had deliberated exactly fifty minutes. It was just twenty-three days ago that the body of Becker's wife, Jennie, was found buried in an old boiler pit in the Bronx. The evidence showed that she had been struck on the head and covered at least an hour before she died.

When Becker was led into the courtroom early this morning to hear the verdict he displayed the same lack of emotion that has characterized his attitude throughout the trial. He said nothing, and there was nothing in his set features to indicate what he may have felt. His counsel made the usual motion that the verdict be dismissed. The judge denied the motion. Becker will be sentenced next Tuesday morning to die in the electric chair.

Before the jury had retired early to-day Alexander Mayer, counsel for Becker, took two hours in summing up his case. He attacked the testimony of Harry Weinstein, a witness for the people, characterizing it as the testimony of a stool pigeon and a tissue of incoherent lies. A witness of Weinstein's character would say anything, he told the jury. He closed with an appeal that the jury have consideration for the four children of Becker, who would be without a father in case of his execution.

Becker was on the stand virtually all of the morning and afternoon sessions. The time occupied by his examination and cross examination totaled about six hours. In not an instance did he appear shaken or unsteady. Assistant District Attorney Cohn's grilling cross examination failed to pierce his stolidity.

"Didn't you pay Norkin \$100 for killing your wife?" asked Attorney Cohn.

"Dentes Paying for Killing." "No," replied the defendant, without flinching. With the same indifference he took in his hands and examined the hat presented by the prosecutor as that of Jennie Becker. Asked if it was his wife's hair, he replied:

"I can't tell if it is, not exactly; it's too dark."

When he was confronted by clothing alleged to have been worn by Mrs. Becker on the night she was killed. He looked at the coat, sweater and dress, with indifferent eyes and a face like stone. He said the coat "might look like hers," but denied it was his wife's sweater.

"Who killed your wife?" demanded the prosecutor.

"I don't know," said Becker. "I don't know," said Becker. "I don't know," said Becker. "I don't know," said Becker.

Confronted with two scores of questions and answers that the prosecution presented as part of a conversation with Becker in the District Attorney's office on November 28 and 29, Becker denied one after another.

He denied saying Norkin killed his wife; he denied knowing where Mrs. Becker was buried. He said he did not take his wife to Norkin's wedding shop on the night of April 5.

"Did you love your wife?" asked the prosecutor.

"Yes," replied the defendant. "Did you love her dearly?" "Life a wife," said Becker. "I loved her all the time."

"Says He Loves Both." "Did you love Anna Elias, too?" "I think I did," said Becker. "I loved them both."

Becker testified he was slapped in the face by Detective James McCartin in the District Attorney's office on Thanksgiving Day, and said he found a blood clot in his right eye later.

Attorney Cohn asked Becker if he had seen his wife struck on the head and if he had helped to bury her. He answered "No."

At this point Attorney Mayer objected to the gyrations indulged in by the District Attorney, Judge Gibbs ruled that the objection made by counsel for the defense was "out of order and uncalled for."

"Did you love your wife?" asked the prosecutor, dramatically, in conclusion.

"It always did," were Becker's last words before leaving the stand.

During the cross examination Becker admitted he was arrested in Woonsocket, R. I., in 1920, charged with failing to stop after he had killed a man while driving his automobile. He denied having stolen lumber from the Empire Fireproof Door Company last March, and denied other thefts charged against him by the prosecution.

After occupying the stand all day the man charged with the Bronx pit murder stepped down with his iron demeanor unshaken.

**BOARD TURNS DOWN
8TH AVENUE SUBWAY**
Mayor Congratulated on the Hyman Plan.

In keeping with the policy of vetoing everything proposed by the Transit Commission the Board of Estimate yesterday unanimously disapproved the commission's eighth avenue subway plan. About a dozen residents of Washington Heights, representing various civic organizations, were heard in opposition to the project. They also congratulated the Mayor on the so-called "Hyman Plan" for a city owned and operated transit system.

75 'ROOKIES' PASS TESTS FOR REGULAR POLICE DUTY

Commissioner Enright Pins Badges on Chests of Proud Men Before a Large Gathering of Relatives—Winners of Contest at Field Day Get Awards.

The police club sang "Enright, you're all right and we'll go through hell for you" when the Commissioner entered the gymnasium at headquarters yesterday to preside over the graduation exercises of the training school.

Seventy-five recruits, after sixty days of training, received their badges from Commissioner Enright. Charles B. Schorfeld, received the badge of patrolman and will go on post at 8 o'clock this morning. The gallery of the drill hall was crowded with relatives.

Patrolman Edward McDonald of the White Plains avenue section received from the Commissioner a gold watch for having sold the most tickets to the police during the training period.

Patrolman Francis W. Bowman of Traffic A got a gold watch, presented by Henry Fruhauf, a friend of the Commissioner, for winning the most points in the field day games. A revolver, offered by Hiram Bloomfield to the patrolman getting the highest rating in the training period, went to Edward O.

Kearney of 122 West Ninety-fifth street, a war veteran.

In a speech to the graduates Mr. Enright said to them that they all had a good chance of promotion and that it was even possible for a man from the ranks to become Commissioner, as he had done. He said that the militia had never been called upon to help the New York police except in 1871 and 1892 and that only one man had ever flinched in the face of danger. He asked the new patrolmen to "uphold the proudest traditions of the Police Department."

The Commissioner also referred to the tablet placed in a corridor of the building in memory of policemen who were killed while doing their duty. He said that "they made the supreme sacrifice for law and order" and that members of the force were always ready for perilous service.

In uniform for the first time, the fledgling cops marched in military formation and did their calisthenics and finally marched away while everybody applauded them.

Deputy Fire Chief John F. O'Hara and twelve firemen of Engine Company 211 and Truck Company 102 were injured yesterday morning when the roof and front wall of the two-story frame building at 139 Harrison avenue, Brooklyn, collapsed. They were sent to St. Catherine's and Cumberland Street hospitals, where it was said that Chief O'Hara and Fireman Peter Scouffey, Engine Company 211 were seriously hurt and may not recover.

Deputy Chief O'Hara was standing in front of the burning building directing the efforts of the firemen when the roof of the crowd warned him that the wall was toppling. He jumped through a ground floor window, but was caught by a part of the window frame, which pinned him to the ledge and was held solid by the mass of burning wood above it. Assistant Chief Joseph Martin arrived just in time to see the Deputy Chief pinned to the wall. With other firemen he went into the house and dragged O'Hara out.

The other injured firemen were on the roof when the collapse came, and they were tumbled down through the chute formed by the fallen timbers. Other firemen and policemen rushed into the ruins and brought them out. Several of the men were unconscious and it was reported at first that several were missing but a search failed to disclose any of them. Chief O'Hara lost consciousness while being sent to a hospital and the last rites of the Catholic church were administered.

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FIRE CHIEF O'HARA AND TWELVE HURT

Two, Including the Brooklyn Deputy, Have Possibly Fatal Injuries.

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SMITH TO BE CLEAR IN STAND ON LIQUOR

Governor-E